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**From:** WaterISAC  
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## August 11, 2015

### Water Sector Incidents & current Threats

#### Gold King Mine Waste Spill

On August 5, while investigating the Gold King Mine near Durango, Colorado, an EPA cleanup team triggered a large release of 3 million gallons of mine wastewater into Cement Creek, which flows into the Animas River. The Animas River joins the San Juan River in Farmington, NM, and then join the Colorado River at Lake Powell. The release's plume contains arsenic, lead, copper, and cadmium. EPA officials announced yesterday afternoon that aerial and ground reconnaissance indicates the plume has dissipated downstream and there is no leading edge of contamination visible in downstream sections of the San Juan River or Lake Powell.

Access to the Animas and San Juan rivers, which support many private wells, livestock, farms and communities, will be closed until at least August 17. At the mine site, EPA diverted some of the discharge into ponds and is treating it by lowering acidity levels and removing dissolved metals. Also, EPA reports has seen no indication of widespread fish mortality in the Animas or San Juan. EPA Region 8 Administrator Shaun McGrath says long-term monitoring will be required.

EPA is posting updates on its [Region 8 website](#), and other information is available on an [EPA On Scene Coordinator site](#). A [New Mexico Environment Department web page](#) also contains spill-related information.

### General Security & Resilience

#### Terror Threat Level in the U.S. “as High as It’s Ever Been,” According to House Homeland Security Committee Report

The U.S. House Homeland Security Committee has released its Terror Threat Snapshot for August 2015. This latest report notes that there have been more U.S.-based jihadist terror cases in 2015 than in any full year since September 11, 2001 and that, among these, the Islamic State has been linked to 14 terror plots and 63 arrests or indictments in the U.S. Based on these and other findings, the report concludes that “the terror threat level in the U.S. homeland is as high as it’s ever been.” The Committee began releasing these products in June 2015 to note significant terrorism and counterterrorism news and to provide analyses of statistics and trends. [Read more at WaterISAC.](#)

#### (U//FOUO) Disrupted Bomb Plot in Germany Reinforces Value of Suspicious Activity Reporting

DHS has provided an Intelligence Assessment reflecting on a recently uncovered bomb plot in Germany. It uses this case to highlight the potential tradecraft that might be employed by terrorist operatives and homegrown violent extremists in attempts to acquire precursor materials or conduct preoperational surveillance. It addresses behaviors associated with the acquisition of explosive precursors and it emphasizes that vigilance about suspicious activity enables the disruption of plotting by extremists. (*Restricted to U.S. entities.*) [Read more at WaterISAC](#).

## **Report Highlights Severe Economic Risks from Climate Change in Southeast and Texas**

On July 28, the Risky Business Project released a new report, *Come Heat and High Water*, highlighting the severe economic risks from climate change to the economies of the Southeastern U.S. and Texas. The Risky Business Project focuses on quantifying and publicizing the economic risks from the impacts of a changing climate. The report's authors say there is no single top-line number that represents the cost of climate change to the Southeastern economy as a whole. Instead, the report addresses the impacts state-by-state and looks at the specific risks each faces from climate change due to rising temperatures. For instance, the authors write, "During the past 30 years, the typical Floridian has experienced an average of seven days per year with temperatures above 95°F. But by 2020-2039, that number is likely to reach up to 32 such days." This, they say, will drive down labor productivity and overall quality of life in Florida.

All of the 12 states will experience additional high-heat days, changes in precipitation, declines in agricultural productivity, increases in electricity demand and cost, heat-related increases in mortality and decreases in labor productivity. Coastal states will experience inundation from higher mean sea levels and high tide lines. [Read more at WaterISAC](#).

## **Cybersecurity**

### **(TLP: GREEN) Malware IPs and Domains Collected from State and Local Government – Week of August 3, 2015**

The Multi-State ISAC has released a spreadsheet of several malicious IP addresses and domains it has collected across a number of state and local government agencies in the week of August 3, 2015. It also contains previously reported IP addresses that are now considered safe. Also included are recommended actions. [Read more at WaterISAC](#).

## **Inside the Aftermath of the Saudi Aramco Breach**

Three years ago, Saudi Aramco suffered a massive cyber attack. Malware partially wiped out or destroyed the hard drives of 35,000 of the company's computers. In a presentation at the annual Black Hat USA conference on August 6, former Aramco consultant Christina Kubecka described how the company responded in the days after the attack. [Dark Reading](#).

## **Password Exploit Possible From Incomplete Implementation of**

## **Microsoft Security Bulletin MS14-025**

US-CERT advises that it is aware of continued exploitation of insecurely stored passwords in Group Policy Preferences, due to incomplete implementations of Microsoft Security Bulletin MS14-025. Systems may still be vulnerable to exploitation if administrators have not cleared all previously stored passwords from their environment. An attacker may decrypt these passwords and use them to gain escalated privileges. US-CERT strongly recommends that administrators employ the PowerShell script provided in Microsoft Knowledge Base Article 2962486 and follow the included instructions for clearing all "CPassword" preferences from their environment. [US-CERT](#).

## **Mozilla Releases Security Updates for Firefox and Firefox ESR**

The Mozilla Foundation has released security updates to address a critical vulnerability in the built-in PDF Viewer for Firefox and Firefox ESR. Exploitation of the vulnerability may allow an attacker to read and steal sensitive local files on the victim's computer. Available updates include Firefox 39.0.3 and Firefox ESR 38.1.1 US-CERT encourages users and administrators to review the [Security Advisory](#) for Firefox and Firefox ESR and apply the necessary updates. [US-CERT](#).

## **Microsoft Releases Security Bulletin Summary for August 2015**

Today, Microsoft released its summary of security bulletins for August 2015. Users and administrators are encouraged to review the July bulletins and implement corrective actions as necessary. [Microsoft](#).

### **Waterisac Events**

#### **Learn More about Top Recommended Cybersecurity Practices during Next Water Sector Cyber Threat Briefing**

Wednesday, August 26, 2015, 2:00 - 3:00 PM ET

On Wednesday, August 26, WaterISAC will convene its next monthly Water Sector Cyber Threat Briefing. During this and the following two monthly briefings, U.S. Department of Homeland Security ICS-CERT will discuss the recommended practices in WaterISAC's recently released [10 Basic Cybersecurity Measures: Best Practices to Reduce Exploitable Weaknesses and Attacks](#). The top three recommendations from the document will be covered this month; ICS-CERT, which provided input into the guide, noted that implementation of these practices likely would have detected the issues, prevented the vulnerabilities, and averted the resulting impacts related to most cybersecurity incidents. The webcast will also cover ICS security incidents, emerging threats, new vulnerabilities in the water sector, situational awareness updates and opportunities for additional support and learning. Also presenting will be iSIGHT Partners. [Register at WaterISAC](#).

### **NEW Events**

#### **2015 Cybersecurity Innovation Forum Hosted by NIST**

September 9-11, 2015 (Washington, DC)

The 2015 Cybersecurity Innovation Forum, taking place at the Washington, DC Convention Center, September 9-11, 2015, is a three-day event hosted by the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) and planned with the National Security Agency and the Department of Homeland Security. This event will bring government and industry together to focus on current, emerging, and future challenges, technologies, projects, solutions, and research in trusted computing, security automation, and information sharing. Tracks include lectures, panel sessions and live demonstrations. [Learn more and register.](#)

#### **other Upcoming Events**

### **Critical Infrastructure Cyber Community Voluntary Program: Protecting Your Small and Midsize Business from Cyber Threats**

Wednesday, August 19, 2015, 1:00 - 2:30 PM ET

On August 19, the DHS Critical Infrastructure Cyber Community (C<sup>3</sup>) invites critical infrastructure partners to attend the next installment in its 2015 webinar series, "Protecting Your Small and Midsize Business from Cyber Threats." During the webinar, attendees will learn about free, easy-to-use government and private sector tools to help identify and mitigate cyber risks for small or midsize businesses. [A flyer for this event has been posted to the WaterISAC portal.](#) The event organizers ask interested parties email RSVPs to [CCubedVP@hq.dhs.gov](mailto:CCubedVP@hq.dhs.gov) by August 18, 2015. [Click here at the time of the event to attend.](#)

### **Water Contaminant Information Tool (WCIT) Training**

January through December 2015 (Various Dates)

On various dates from January to December, the U.S. EPA will offer virtual training on the Water Contaminant Information Tool (WCIT). Attendees will learn what WCIT is, who can use WCIT, and how WCIT can be used to prepare for and respond to water contamination incidents. The training will be delivered via teleconference, and participants will drive their own computers while receiving navigation instructions from the host. Therefore, an active WCIT account is a prerequisite for this training. WaterISAC Pro members have access to [WCIT](#) via the WaterISAC portal. [Register at U.S. EPA.](#)

### **2015 International Levee Handbook Webinar Series**

April through August 2015 (Various Dates)

**From April through August, the Levee Safety Coalition is offering a series of webinars on the International Levee Handbook (ILH), with each webinar covering a specific topic presented by the lead authors of the corresponding ILH chapter. The ILH is a compendium of international best practices and guidelines related to the design, construction, operation, maintenance, and improvement of levees. It summarizes more**

than five years of work by a multi-disciplinary team of experts supported by an international peer review process. These webinars, which are complimentary and open to the general public, are recorded and archived for future reference and access. [Visit the Association of State Dam Safety Officials Website for complete schedule and registration.](#)

## 2015 International Water and Climate Change Forum

December 7-9, 2015 (San Diego, CA)

National and international drinking water and wastewater associations and its supporters and partners are hosting the 2015 International Water & Climate Forum on December 7-9 in San Diego. Focusing on informed implementation of climate adaptation and mitigation strategies, the forum will feature an exchange of knowledge, applications and innovative practices about climate adaptation and mitigation strategies and measures; exposure to a wide spectrum of these current and planned implementation approaches underway at urban utilities around the world. Speakers will include utility managers, climate scientists, researchers, policymakers and others. [Learn more at the forum website.](#)

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